

have been added. Support for these new claims and amendments can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments.

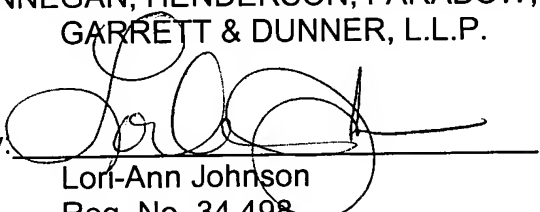
Applicants respectfully request consideration of this application and timely allowance of pending claims 16-30.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: December 18, 2001

By: 
Lori-Ann Johnson
Reg. No. 34,498

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APPENDIX TO AMENDMENT OF DECEMBER 20, 2001
VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

16. A fibrous web comprising:

a major portion of refined long fiber having an average weight-weighted fiber length of from at least about 2 mm to about 3.5 mm;

a minor portion of a fiber selected from the group consisting of hardwood fibers, recycle fibers, secondary fibers, nonwoody fibers, and eucalyptus fibers, high yield fibers, thermally curled fibers, thermally cross-linked bulking fibers, and mixtures thereof;

a cationic wet strength agent selected from the group consisting of polyamide-epihalohydrin resins, thermosetting polyacrylamide resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine formaldehyde resins, and mixtures thereof in an amount of from about 15 to about 30 lbs/ton;

an anionic strength agent selected from carboxymethyl celluloses, carboxymethyl guar gums, anionic starches, anionic guar gums, anionic polyacrylamides, and mixtures thereof;

wherein the amount of said cationic wet strength agent and said anionic strength agent is controlled so that the net charge of the web when formed from an aqueous stream is maintained in the range of from less than about zero to about -115 meq x 10⁻⁶ per 10 ml;

said web having a machine direction stretch of at least about 8%, a cross-direction wet strength of at least about 29 g/3 in/lb of basis weight, and a tensile modulus of stiffness less than about 150 g/in-%.

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